

**INDIANA TOBACCO USE PREVENTION AND
CESSATION EXECUTIVE BOARD
RESOLUTION 2001-2**

WHEREAS, The Indiana Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Executive Board (hereinafter "Executive Board") was established by the Indiana General Assembly and Governor Frank O'Bannon to establish a long range state plan to significantly improve health in Indiana and reduce the disease and economic burden that tobacco use places on Hoosiers of all ages.

WHEREAS, Numerous United States Surgeon General Reports have concluded that an optimal level of excise taxation on tobacco products will reduce the prevalence of smoking, the consumption of tobacco, and the long-term health consequences of tobacco use.

WHEREAS, Economic research studies have consistently documented that every 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes will reduce adult smoking by 4 percent and reduce teen smoking by roughly 7 percent.

WHEREAS, The Executive Board in preparing the long range state plan has approved as part of its mission and goals to prevent initiation of tobacco use by Indiana youth.

WHEREAS, The Executive Board recognizes that increasing the price of tobacco products is the single most effective strategy in reducing youth tobacco use.

WHEREAS, The current Indiana excise tax on cigarettes is 15.5 cents a pack and this tax has not been increased since 1987.

WHEREAS, Indiana is well below the national average of 42 cents per pack and all surrounding states with the exception of Kentucky have much higher excise taxes on cigarettes than Indiana.

WHEREAS, A proposal has been introduced to the budget leaders in the 2001 session of the Indiana General Assembly to raise Indiana's tobacco excise tax 50 cents to an effective rate of 65.5 cents per pack of cigarettes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Indiana Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Executive Board supports and recommends that the Indiana General Assembly and Governor Frank O'Bannon raise Indiana's tobacco excise tax to increase the price of tobacco products as a means of reducing youth tobacco use in Indiana.

Effective on this _____ day of April, 2001.

Bain J. Farris
Chairman